

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00560 101301Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 068705

R 101035Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2722

RNFO RUESFDQ/AMEMBASSY LISBON 1480

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0560

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE CATHOLIC CHURCH BACKS INDEPENDENCE AND
AFRICANIZATION

1. ON JULY 3 THE PRESBYTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE LOURENCO MARQUES
ARCHDIOCESE ISSUED A LENGTHY STATEMENT ON MOZAMBIQUE CONDI-
TIONS CONTRASTING SHARPLY WITH CONSERVATIVE LINE FOLLOWED
BY ARCHBISHOP CUSTODIAO ALVIM PEREIRA PRIOR TO APRIL 25.
LONG TEXT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ONLY IN CHURCH-OWNED DIAIRO,
AND HAS RECEIVED LITTLE PUBLICITY ELSEWHERE. FOLLOWING ARE
SOME OF PRINCIPAL POINTS RAISED BY COUNCIL:

A. INDEPENDENCE: COUNCIL SAYS "WE BELIEVE PEACE WILL BE
THE IMMEDIATE FRUIT OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF
MOZAMBIQUE TO INDEPENDENCE" IN ORDER THAT IT CAN CHOOSE ITS
DESTINY AND POLITICAL/SOCIAL REGIME. JUSTICE, PEACE AND
PROSPERITY WILL REIGN "IN A NEW AND INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE
IN WHICH THE NEGRO MAJORITY OCCUPIES THE PLACE TO WHICH IT
HAS A RIGHT". FINALLY, IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL TO PREPARE AND
BUILD THE "GREATNESS OF AN INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE IN THE
NEAR FUTURE". THIS POSITION IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM ARCH-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LOUREN 00560 101301Z

BISHOP'S LONGSTANDING POSITION THAT INDEPENDENCE WAS NOT

A GOAL WHICH THE CHURCH NEED SUPPORT.

B. CRIMES: COUNCIL POINTS OUT, AMONG FAILINGS OF RECENT PAST, "SILENCE OF CHURCH IN THE LIGHT OF CERTAIN EVENTS, IN THE DENUNCIATION OF INJUSTICES, AND THE DEFENSE OF RIGHTS OF MAN". THIS IS CLEAR REFERENCE TO OFFICIAL SILENCE OF CHURCH WITH REGARD ALLEGED ATROCITIES (WIRIYAMU, ETC.) OF PORTUGUESE TROOPS, AND ITS REFUSAL TO AIR ATROCITY REPORTS MADE BY MISSIONARIES AND A FEW BISHOPS.

C. AFRICANIZATION: COUNCIL CALLS FOR BISHOPS COMMITTED TO "CAUSE OF AN AFRICAN CHURCH", FOR NUNS "SEEKING AN AUTHENTICALLY AFRICAN RELIGIOUS LIFE", AND FOR THE SEARCH FOR "FORMS AND EXPRESSIONS (OF RELIGION) MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LOCAL CHURCH". FINALLY, COUNCIL SAYS THAT "AFRICAN NUNS AND PRIESTS, BECAUSE THEY ARE BASED IN THE PEOPLE ITSELF, ARE THE MOST APPROPRIATE AND CAPABLE ... FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRULY LOCAL CHURCH, ROOTED IN AFRICA'S OWN VALUES", WHILE NON-AFRICAN CLERGY MUST "IDENTIFY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITH THE WAY OF LIFE AND ACTION OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE, AND TRY TO ACCEPT AND APPLY (PASTORAL PROJECTS) IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT".

2. FOR MOZAMBIQUE CHURCH, WHICH DESPITE RUMBLINGS FROM WITHIN (AND FROM NON-PORTUGUESE MISSIONARIES SERVING IN MOZAMBIQUE) HAS TRADITIONALLY IDENTIFIED WITH PORTUGAL AND WITH PORTUGUESE "CIVILIZING MISSION", COUNCIL STATEMENT REPRESENTS A MAJOR SHIFT, AND AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO ADJUST TO THE NEW CONDITIONS CREATED BY PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION.

3. IT IS WIDELY RUMORED THAT ARCHBISHOP PEREIRA WILL SHORTLY BE REPLACED; PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES FOR THE SUCCESSION ARE BISHOPS FERREIRA DA SILVA OF TETE AND MANUEL VIEIRA PINTO OF NAMPULA. BISHOP VIEIRA PINTO, LONG THE SPOKESMAN OF MOZAMBIQUE CHURCH'S MOST LIBERAL WING, WAS FORCED INTO EXILE SHORTLY BEFORE APRIL 25 AND HAS NOT YET RETURNED; IN PASTORAL LETTER PUBLISHED JULY 6 HE APPEALED THAT "THE GUNS BECOME SILENT AND FROM A HAPPILY INITIATED DIALOGUE THERE BE BORN A WORTHILY INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE".

REED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LOUREN 00560 101301Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CATHOLICS, INDEPENDENCE, PANAFRICANISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740184-0065
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740762/aaaacsf.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBIQUE CATHOLIC CHURCH BACKS INDEPENDENCE AND AFRICANIZATION
TAGS: PINT, SOCI, PDEV, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005